

plain way around to Virginia. "Chile and New Zealand" have no monopoly of it.

Altogether one cannot escape the conviction that the author of "Continental Drift and Plant Distribution" has simply plucked here and there, especially from early and outgrown sources, without any clear understanding of identities and actual geographic ranges. Any deductions drawn from such haphazard and wholly misunderstood data must be very doubtful. Unless an author takes pains to get his fundamental facts accurate he can expect to be followed only by those who do not know the difference. Some years ago an enthusiastic advocate of continental drift¹, who out-wegenered Wegener, found that the school-child's game of cutting out from maps and shoving together the continents left him puzzled to fit the large and irregular island of Newfoundland into the picture. The problem was solved (Baker, maps after p. 28) by obliterating the Bay of Biscay, swinging the Iberian Peninsula northward opposite Greenland and shoving Newfoundland into the broadened outlet of the Mediterranean. In so doing the imaginative reconstructor ignored the fact that much of the rim of the Gulf of St. Lawrence (southwestern Newfoundland, Cape Breton and northern Nova Scotia, the Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island and the Gaspé Peninsula) is characterized by homogeneous beds of gypsiferous Carboniferous deposits, and that the Gulf is supposed to have been formed by the breaking down of such relatively soluble areas. Newfoundland started where it still exists; but many of my published maps of transatlantic identities were used as proof of the trip across the Atlantic, for Newfoundland shares many Atlantic European species. There you are! I remember writing a friend at that time that some important points had been overlooked: an island on the eastern coast of Newfoundland is Baccalieu (Portuguese *bacalháo*, the codfish), two small ports on the Avalon Peninsula are Biscay Bay and Portugal Cove, and everyone entering Newfoundland from Cape Breton must pass the customs at Port aux Basques. The antiquity in their present positions of Iberia, Newfoundland and other marginal lands, with characteristic lithological structure, continuous geological histories and well demonstrated endemism of fauna and flora, are only a few of the many embarrassing matters which ardent enthusiasts ignore in their espousal of continental drift.—M. L. F.

THE ALBINO OF *EPILOBIUM LATIFOLIUM*.—The handsome circumpolar *Epilobium latifolium* L., or RIVER-BEAUTY, ordinarily has roseate or purplish petals, but occasionally colonies with whitish petals and pale sepals, an obvious albino, are found. Although this albino is passing as *E. latifolium*, forma *albiflorum*, I am unable to find that that patently descriptive name has the status of more than a mere *nomen*; no proper and required diagnosis of it seems to have been published. The name, merely as a name, was published by Nathorst in Öfvers. Kgl. Sv. Vidensk.-Akad. Förh. 46 (1884) in an enumeration of plants of northwest Greenland:

Epilobium latifolium L. f. *albiflora*.

That was all, except a note of the station. This name, with various inaccuracies interpolated, has been generally used for the

HOWARD A. BAKER, *The Atlantic Rift and its Meaning* (1932).

albino, but, as stated, it seems never to have been properly defined. Thus Dr. M. P. Porsild and his son, A. E. Porsild, wrote, under *Chamaenerium* (not *Epilobium*) *latifolium* (L.) Spach, "the var. **albiflorum** NATH. is hereditary constant"—Porsild and Porsild, Meddel. om Grønl. lviii. 110 (1926)—but, although erroneously ascribing to Nathorst (who had the name of a mere forma under *Epilobium*) the publication of a variety under *Chamaenerium*, the Porsilds gave no diagnosis. Neither did Mr. A. E. Porsild, when in RHODORA, xli. 264 (1939) he published the paragraph

"EPILOBIUM LATIFOLIUM L. var. **albiflorum** (Nath.), n. comb. *Chamaenerium latifolium* (L.) Sweet [error for Spach] var. *albiflora* Nath. . . .
Epilobium latifolium L. ssp. *leucanthum* Ulke in Can. Field-Nat. 49: 108 (1935)."

It might be urged that, when Polunin in his Botany of the Canadian Eastern Arctic, i. 299 (1940) preceded his record of *E. latifolium*, f.. *albiflorum* Nathorst by a statement that "This is the white or pinkish flowered plant", he was giving a description. It was a description, but not the *Latin diagnosis* which before 1940 had become requisite for legitimate publication of a name.

So far as I can find the only proper diagnosis of the albino is the 24-line glorification of it, cited in the paragraph quoted from RHODORA, "A Tito Ulke descriptum". Accordingly, with no more to-do about a very trivial but striking color-form, it seems necessary to write

EPILOBIUM LATIFOLIUM L., forma **leucanthum** (Ulke), stat. nov. Ssp. *leucanthum* Ulke in Can. Field.-Nat. xlix. 108 (1935).
—M. L. FERNALD.

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